

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2005. Claims 21 to 40 are pending in the application, of which Claims 21, 26, 31 and 36 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 21 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,313 (Sugaya). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns an image recording apparatus. The image recording apparatus may record multiple images, such as photographs. Each image may be provided with attribute data. The attribute data may include a plurality of attributes, such as a title of the image, an image recording date or a destination user. In addition, each attribute includes attribute information. For example, a recording date attribute includes attribute information regarding an actual date. If a user designates an attribute of an image recording date, then a plurality of recording papers on which a number of images with the same recording date are output to the same output port on the image recording apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 21 is directed to an image recording apparatus which includes: an attachment unit, adapted to attach a detachable memory to the image recording apparatus, the memory storing a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute data corresponding to the plurality of image data, each attribute data having a plurality of attributes, each attribute including attribute information; a designation unit, adapted to designate one attribute from among the plurality of attributes; a recording unit, adapted to record the plurality of image data read from the memory attached by the attachment unit on a recording paper; and a determination unit, adapted to make a determination such that a plurality of recording papers on which a

number of image data with the same attribute information included in the attribute designated by the designation unit are recorded are output to the same output port.

Amended independent Claim 26 is directed to an image recording apparatus, comprising: a read unit, adapted to read, from a memory storing a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute data corresponding to the plurality of image data, wherein each attribute data has a plurality of attributes and each attribute includes attribute information; a designation unit, adapted to designate one attribute from among the plurality of attributes; and a determination unit, adapted to make a determination such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information included in the attribute designated by said designation unit are recorded are output to the same output port.

Claim 21 as amended now recites that the designation unit designates one attribute from among a plurality of attributes and the determination unit makes a determination such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information included in the designated attribute are recorded are output to the same output port.

Sugaya discloses outputting a plurality of jobs of the same user to the same bin. Sugaya, however, fails to disclose or suggest a designation unit, adapted to designate one attribute from among a plurality of attributes and a determination unit, adapted to make a determination such that a plurality of recording papers on which a number of image data with the same attribute information included in the attribute designated by the designation unit are recorded are output to the same output port.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 21 and 26 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 31 and 36 are directed to a method and a program stored on a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 26. Applicants submit that the discussion above in support of Claim 26 applies equally to Claims 31 and 36. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 31 and 36 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. However, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank L. Cire  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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